Registered No. M-4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

Vol. II | Friday, December 19, 1941 | Issue No. 51

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
General Wavell Optimistic	1	Japanese Infamy Rivets Great Alliance ..	10
Notes of the Week	2	Statistics of War	11
The Far Eastern Front	6	The Axis Speaks—and is Answered ..	12
Defence of the Philippines	8	Diary of the War	14

GENERAL WAVELL OPTIMISTIC

REVIEW OF WAR SITUATION

RANGOON NOT BOMBED: ALLIES BOUND TO WIN

General Sir Archbald Wavell, the Commander-in-chief of India, made a frank and optimistic survey of the war situation in the different theatres, in the Far East, in the Middle East and in Russia. This authoritative statement should dispel the people of India of the spirit of pessimism induced especially by recent events in the Pacific and make them face the future with courage and confidence, albeit with some concern.

Here are the points urged in the Wizard's :

(1) *The Pacific.*—The situation is one which undoubtedly gives us a certain amount of anxiety. But there is absolutely no reason to think more than that the enemy has had a preliminary success. And we are taking measures to remedy that so far as we can. As a result of the sudden and treacherous attack made by them, the Japanese forces have obtained certain preliminary advantages in the air, on the sea and on land; but they are a very long way from overrunning Malaya or getting to Singapore. Our troops have been driven back some distance and we have had certain losses.

There is no doubt that both in the east coast and the west coast, the Japanese have suffered extremely heavy casualties. On the east coast, they have made little progress.

(2) *The Defence of India.*—As regards the defence of India, it is only the north-eastern portion of it—some parts of that portion—that is within extreme bombing range from Thailand. I don't think there is any serious danger of a large scale attack on India at present. Steps are being taken to supply our deficiencies as rapidly as possible. But there is, honestly speaking, no cause for any great alarm for the time being. The enemy undoubtedly will try to do everything possible to play on our nerves by spreading false information and by other means. He will spread false information—as in the case of the report that Rangoon was bombed—in the hope that its denial will give him information which will be useful to him and which he would not have got otherwise.

(3) *Russia.*—The news from Russia continues to be extremely encouraging. Germany has lost a good deal of men and material. The German air superiority is beginning to decline.

(*Continued on page 10*)

NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

The Nazi retreat from Moscow is proceeding. Klin has been re-occupied by Russians as well as Yasnaya and Polyana (south of Tula) and Dedilovo and Bogorditsk (both south-east of Tula). Russian attacks are now amazingly heavy. Kalinin, a key-town 100 miles north-west of Moscow, has been recaptured and six German divisions have been destroyed. The German armies in the Mojaisk area, 65 miles due west of Moscow, are also retiring.

British troops are advancing in the face of counter-attacks south-west of Gazala. In the frontier area, offensive operations against German and Italian detachments are proceeding. General Sir Claude Auchinleck, in a message, says that "the enemy is not yet destroyed, and must be given no rest." The enemy in Estern Cyrenaica is in full retreat.

Hong-kong is besieged. Heavy fighting is taking place in Malaya where the British forces are considerably outnumbered. The residents and garrison of Victoria Point in Burma have been evacuated and in the north-west corner of Malaya, Japanese have penetrated the British first line defences. A Japanese message says that Japanese forces have landed on Tuesday, on the coast of Sarawak in Borneo.

Col. Knox announced that in addition to *Arizona* five other United States Warships were lost at Pearl Harbour by Japanese attack. The total casualties were 2,729 officers and men killed and 656 wounded. The Japanese lost three submarines and 41 aircraft. Much of the havoc done at Hawaii was, in his opinion, due to fifth column work. The Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet and the air and military chiefs of the Hawaii district have been relieved and President Roosevelt has appointed a board to enquire into the circumstances of the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbour.

Mr. Togo, the Japanese Foreign Minister, has made a statement that there is no change in the Japanese Government's attitude regarding Soviet-Japanese relations. The Soviet had repeatedly enunciated their intention to abide by the Neutrality Pact with Japan. M. Litvinov, Russian Ambassador to America, states that Japan is the common enemy of Great Britain and Russia, but that does not necessarily mean an immediate declaration of war by Russia as such a declaration will involve problems of great complexity.

There is important shipping news in the week. The United States Navy has seized the world's largest oil-tanker, the French vessel *Scheherazade* and interned its crew of 40. There are 12 French vessels now in the United States ports under protective custody, including the *Normandie*. On Saturday, four Japanese troopships were sunk off Patani in Southern Thailand by submarines of the Royal Netherlands Navy. The troopships were steaming south and were fully loaded. It is stated that 4,000 Japanese on board the four transports sunk have been drowned. Two Italian cruisers have been sunk in the Central Mediterranean.

The Italian U-boat *Ammiraglio Carraciolo* has been sunk in the Central Mediterranean by a British destroyer.

Mr. De Valera has stated in answer to a question as to how American entry into the war affected Eire's policy; "We have answered that question in advance. The policy of the State remains unchanged. We can only be a friendly neutral. Any other policy would have been to commit suicide." The extension of war to America, he said, had brought anxiety and sorrow to every part of Eire.

The Netherlands Government announces that a force of Allied troops has landed in Portuguese Timor.

It is understood that no resistance was encountered when the Allied force entered Portuguese Timor. Deli has a good harbour and airport. The following is a communique on the subject of the landing at Timor published on Thursday afternoon by the Information Bureau of the Government of the Netherlands East Indies: "In view of Japanese submarine activities off Portuguese Timor, it became an unavoidable necessity to take steps to safeguard this territory against Japanese aggression and to forestall its being used as a base from which attacks could be made on Allied territory and communications. Accordingly a force of Allied troops has been landed in Portuguese Timor. The Portuguese Government having reaffirmed their desire to preserve neutrality, the local authorities in Portuguese Timor have objected to the action being taken. The Portuguese sovereignty remains intact and it has been made clear to the Portuguese Government that the troops will be withdrawn as soon as the threat from the enemy is removed, since their presence is purely a measure of defence on the part of the Allied nations at war with Japan." Portuguese Timor is strategically very important. The Island is half Dutch and half Portuguese and is situated within the air range of Port Darwin, 450 miles distance. The occupation of Timor knocks one of the potential stepping stones among the South Sea Islands from under Japan's feet. Japan established an airline between her own island of Palau and Timor, which aroused deep concern in Australia and Great Britain. But Japan clearly had other plans than commercial ones in mind. In North Borneo Japan has obtained

an airfield at Miri which may have been wrecked but can be repaired. From Miri she no doubt plans to take Banjermasin, 500 miles away in South Borneo. From there it is 300 miles to the Great Dutch air bases at Sourabaya in Sumatra, a well-known station on the flight from Europe to Australia. Obviously the Japanese aim is to establish a series of stepping stones all over the South Sea Islands of which the Timor concession marked the first stage. Now Japan has lost it.

AMERICA IN THE WAR

America's entry into the war, both as against Germany and Italy on the one hand and against Japan on the other, comes for some notice in regard to the measures she is so rapidly taking.

1. The Bill enabling United States expeditionary forces to be sent to any part of the world is being passed with practically no opposition. While some time ago the passage of such a measure would have startling significance, to-day it is almost lost in the news columns. Of course one would not expect a spectacular armada to set out. The time is not yet for such an invasion force. America will choose her own time for it.

2. A White House announcement says that the "Lease-Lend programme is and will continue in full operation." Of course it cannot be expected that the full extent of the supply woud be kept up hereafter and there may be some interruption but her "Defence Programme" has now become a "Victory Programme." Longer hours, greater co-ordination, increased national effort over the whole field of production and the final effect will not only offset any temporary supply difficulties but will help to ensure that total victory on which America and her Allies are jointly resolved.

3. Legislation has been introduced authorising a 30 per cent increase in the vessel strength of the Navy. There will be an increase of 900,000 tons in the United States naval strength and these include seven or eight 45,000 ton battleships, 29,000 ton aircraft carriers, twenty-seven 7,000-ton cruisers and more than 80 submarines—all these in the Pacific. This of course will be complementary to the naval strength of Great Britain in the Pacific.

4. America, it was stated, can call up an army of over seven million men, if necessary, if Congress made men from 19 to 44 (inclusive) subject to military training.

5. The output of military aircraft will be well above the 2,000 mark and perhaps around the 2,400 mark this month. By the end of this month the current tank production would be one-third of 2,800 monthly.

6. Messages have been exchanged between President Roosevelt and Marshal Chiang Kai-shek. President Roosevelt says: "I am wholly confident that the struggle in which we are engaged in common with other gallant nations will forge stronger bonds of traditional friendship and will result inevitably in the complete destruction of the lawless forces against which your effort, our effort and the efforts of our associates are now individually and collectively directed."

7. The following are some points in President Roosevelt's lengthy message to Congress:

(a) Japan announced that 70 million Japanese were superior to seven or eight hundred million other inhabitants of the Orient.

(b) President Roosevelt would have travelled thousands of miles to meet the Japanese Prime Minister if there had been an assurance that there would be an agreement on the basis of principles, but he could obtain no such assurance.

(c) Japan's reply was delivered after Japan had actually attacked. The President disclosed that Japan was making protestations of peace three hours and forty minutes after the attack on Pearl Harbour had begun. The actual air and submarine attack began at 1-20 p.m. Washington time. At 5 p.m. the Japanese Foreign Minister called on the American Ambassador Mr. Joseph Grew and asserted that the Japanese Emperor so greatly desired the establishment of peace in the Pacific and the entire world that he had instructed the Japanese Government to "continue its earnest endeavours."

NAZI REPRISALS

The Vichy Government is very uneasy over fresh outrages by the Nazi authorities. It would appear that one hundred Jews, "Communists" and anarchists are to be shot, a fine of one million francs is to be paid by Jews in occupied territories and many Jews are to be sent to penal servitude. A plaintive appeal has been sent by the men of Vichy. They deplore that their request for a reduction in the number to be shot has not even been considered. And yet, the men of Vichy are not ashamed to give in to the demands of the Nazi agent, time after time.

There is no limit to Nazi crime. A mass crime has been prepared in Yugoslavia and according to a newspaper correspondent, there is a German plan for treating the whole population of Belgrade as hostages to be slaughtered by mass execution. General Simovitch estimates the probable number of intended victims to be 300,000. The object is to compel by terrorist methods the surrender of formations of the Yugoslav army which under General Mihailovitch are continuing the struggle for their country's freedom in the mountains running down the Dalmatian coast.

Artillery is being moved up around the Yugoslav capital and when these guns are all in position, Yugoslav troops will be called upon to make an unconditional surrender. If they refuse, a force of stuka dive-bombers will be sent to rain high explosive and incendiary bombs on Belgrade, and the surrounding batteries will open a converging fire on the city to destroy what still remains of its buildings after the terrible air onslaught last April and mow down fugitives trying to escape. It will be remembered that as a reprisal for the assassination of two German officers at Nantes and Bordeaux a hundred French hostages have been executed. And in Yugoslavia 12,000 hostages have been murdered in cold blood during the past summer. In the town of Kragujeva, in retaliation for the supposed killing of 26 German soldiers, 26,000 men, women and children were butchered.

GERMAN RETREAT IN RUSSIA

A special announcement by the Soviet authorities early this week revealed that the German plans for surrounding and capturing Moscow have ended in a fiasco and in the defeat of the German troops at the approaches to the city. The German offensive, which began on 16th November, was beaten back and, at the very gates of the suburbs, the Russians launched a counter-offensive (on 6th December). A Russian communiqué stated that, on 11th December, the following was the position of the respective armies :—

(*a*) The forces of General Liliushenko are smashing the First Tank and the Fourteenth and Thirty-sixth Motorised Infantry Divisions, and capturing Rogachey and surrounding the town of Klin.

(*b*) The forces of General Kuznetsov having captured the town of Yakhrona, are pursuing the retreating Sixth and Seventh Tank and Twenty-third Infantry Divisions of the enemy, and have emerged to the south-west of Klin.

(*c*) The forces of General Vlassov pursuing the Second Tank and the 106th Infantry Division, have occupied the town of Solnechnogorsk.

(*d*) The forces of General Rokossovsky pursuing the Fifth, Tenth and Eleventh Tank Divisions and an S. S. Division and the Thirty-fifth Infantry Division, have broken through the defences of the 252nd, Eighty-seventh, Seventy-eighth and 268th Infantry Divisions, and occupied the districts of Kulibyakin and Lokotnya.

(*e*) The Forces of General Boldin having routed, to the north-west of Tula, the Third and the Fourth Tank Divisions and an S. S. Regiment of the Germania Division, and successfully developing their offensive, have pressed on and surrounded the 296th Infantry Division.

(*f*) The First Guard Cavalry Corps of General Delov having routed the Seventeenth Tank and Twenty-ninth Motorised Infantry Divisions and the 167th Infantry Division of the enemy is pursuing their remnants, and has occupied the towns of Vincyev and Stalinogorsk.

(*g*) The forces of General Golikov, after pushing back in the south-west, the units of the Eighteenth Tank and Tenth Motorised Infantry Divisions, have occupied the towns of Mikhailov and Yetisan.

Since then Klin and Kalinin (100 miles north-west of Moscow) have been taken by the Russians and about 500 populated centres freed from the enemy, who is retreating from Mojaisk, 65 miles west of Moscow. The booty left behind by the Germans is immense. The Russians press back the Germans both on the northern and southern fronts, too; they have captured the railway from Tikhvin to Volkhov; and the Germans admit heavy pressure in the region of Lake Ladoga.

The Soviet Information Bureau states that while Soviet losses in killed and missing during the five months of war amounted to a total of 520,000 men, including war prisoners. Hitler's army lost up to 19,000 guns, over 15,000 tanks, and about 13,000 aircraft. This does not include losses at the approaches to Moscow between November 16 and December 10. The Bureau statement claims that in less than one month over 85,000 Germans were killed at the approaches to Moscow. In the course of the five months war on the Eastern Front a whole generation of Germans—over six million men—were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

It will be recalled that the German Propaganda Ministry not long ago stated that the German High Command would consider Moscow as its main objective, even if M. Stalin should attempt to transfer the centre of gravity of the military operations to another sector. The German circles stated that the German advance on the Russian capital had advanced so far that the outskirts of the city could already be seen through good binoculars. It is now obvious that this boastful plan for surrounding and capturing Moscow has proved a complete fiasco. The Germans have quite obviously suffered a defeat here. And it is reported that Marshal Von Bock, their Commander-in-Chief on the Central Front, has been relieved of his duties. The Germans complain of winter and blame the cold for not allowing them to carry out their plans for capturing Moscow. But, first of all, real winter weather has not yet set in near Moscow, as frosts have not been much below three or five degrees below zero. The fact that the Germans are complaining so bitterly about the winter shows that they did not trouble to supply their troops with winter uniforms, despite the fact that they had been shouting to the whole world that they were long ago fully prepared for a winter campaign. Actually,

they did not supply their army with winter uniforms, as they fully anticipated that they would finish the campaign before the approach of the winter.

The Nazis claim that they are withdrawing in order to dig themselves in suitable winter quarters, in which case the Russians will continually press in on them and keep them going without any rest. But it looks as if Moscow is more correct in claiming that the mighty German army is retiring in disorder because of the weight of the Russian counter-offensive. The Russian advance, as has been pointed out, " is of vital importance because Nazi Germany is the keystone of the totalitarian arch; any damage to that keystone is a menace to the whole Axis structure," despite temporary Allied reverses in the Far East or elsewhere.

BRITISH ADVANCE IN LIBYA

The advance of the British Imperial Forces this week in Libya has been vigorous and rapid. They have marched about 80 miles west of Tobruk, leaving an adequate force to obtain the surrender of the supply base of Gazala; the latter is now encircled and must fall. Lieut.-General Ritchie, the new British Commander-in-Chief, is going all out to beat General von Rommel's forces, which are apparently retreating to Derna after five days of intensive fighting. The British forces have now reached the Tmimi-Mekili Road. It is good to know that Indians are still the spear-head of the thrust and, according to a New Zealand soldier, are " doing a great job." British and Indian troops broke through a strong enemy position near Alem Hamza, 15 miles south-west of Gazala, and pursued the enemy for 30 miles.

Gen. Rommel is apparently fighting a delaying action in the hope of extricating his main forces. British tank forces are now trying to bring the remnants of General Rommel's Fifteenth and Twenty-first Armoured Divisions into battle and General Rommel is taking full advantage of the superior range of the six-pounder guns with which his tanks are fitted and holding them off as best he can while he withdraws gradually westward, covering the retreat of vast masses of transport. While British advanced forces are gradually rolling back Rommel's armoured troops, the huge rear organization of the Eighth Army has pushed forward well over a hundred miles during the last few days. At the same time, the Royal Air Force have pushed forward their advanced fighter formations. Thus is secured about 10,000 square miles in Libya in which no enemy remains except small comparatively harmless pockets of Germans, hiding in ravines and under cliffs along the coast who are being ferreted out by our supply columns roaming the desert from the coast to fifty miles inland.

The Empire forces, in one day's operations, took 700 prisoners, 70,000 gallons of fuel and several guns and tanks, beside destroying many more tanks. And Gen. Rommel cannot hope to receive adequate supplies across the seas where the British Navy, in addition to making a daring raid on Derna, has accounted this week for five Italian cruisers besides a number of supply ships. The British destroyer *Frandale* has sunk *Ammiraglio Carraciolo*, one of the latest class of Italian submarines (of 1,461 tons) which was carrying 20 Italian military officers. Fifty-three survivors of the crew are prisoners of war but General Guido Lami, chief executive of the Engineering Headquarters of the Italian Army in Rome, is missing and is believed to have been drowned. And the Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force are not only shooting down Axis planes in numbers but ceaselessly bombing enemy supply bases in Libya, Sicily and Italy. Mr. Churchill is not wrong in claiming that the battle for Libya is going well for the Empire.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Britain's Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East, has sent the following message to Major-General Ritchie, the new Commander of the Eighth Army fighting in Libya: " After ten days at your advanced headquarters, where I have been able closely to follow the progress of the operations directed by you, I wish to tell you how deeply impressed I am by the skill and vigour with which they have been conducted and by the great success achieved by them. Such success would never have been achieved without the wholehearted and unceasing co-operation of our air force whose work has been magnificent throughout. During this period the enemy has been outmanoeuvred and outfought at all points and has been driven back over sixty miles and forced to abandon the siege of Tobruk. I cannot tell you how much I admire the way in which your subordinate commanders, Lieutenant-Generals Willoughby Norris and Godwin Austin commanding the Thirtieth and the Thirteenth Corps, and Major-General Scobie, commanding the Tobruk Garrison, have carried out your orders and maintained relentless pressure on the enemy. For officers and men under their command, whether British, New Zealand, Indian, South African, Australian, Polish or Czech, no praise can be too high for their splendid spirit and unshaken determination to win in the face of danger, hardship and more than one setback. They have shown that when it comes to sticking it, they can outlast the Germans every time. The enemy is not yet destroyed and must be given no rest. I leave this task to you with the greatest confidence. Good luck to the Eighth Army and all in it."

THE FAR EASTERN FRONT

FIERCE FIGHTING IN MALAYA

A true picture of the military situation in the Far East was given by Mr. Richard Casey, the Australian Minister in Washington, who gave "a quick summary of the position" to President Roosevelt. "There are *plus* and *minus* factors" he said "but we are far from being down-hearted about it."

After the initial surprise Japanese attacks on the Hawaii and other bases in the Pacific, there has been a general stabilization of the front in all theatres of operations, except in Malaya where the Japanese are advancing, though slowly and at a terrific cost. The worst is now known of the United States losses in Pearl Harbour (Hawaii) in the first Japanese raid. Col. Knox, United States Secretary of the Navy, who inspected the naval base, has revealed that, in addition to the old battleship *Arizona*, an old target ship (*Utah*), three destroyers (*Cassin*, *Downes* and *Shaw*) and a mine-layer were lost. Other damaged vessels, including the battleship *Oklahoma*, were being repaired. The total casualties were 2,729 officers and men killed and 656 wounded. President Roosevelt has appointed a board, presided over by Mr. Owen Roberts, Justice of the Supreme Court, to enquire into the conditions that made such a surprise attack possible on the chief Pacific base of the United States Navy. Meanwhile, Admiral Kimmel, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, Lieut.-Gen. Short, Commander of the Hawaii Army District, and Maj.-Gen. Martin, Commander of the Air Forces there have been replaced, respectively, by Rear-Admiral Nimitz, Lieut.-Gen. Emmons, and Lieut.-Gen. Tinker.

But it is heartening to know that (in Col. Knox's own, authoritative words) "the entire balance of the Pacific Fleet, with its battleships, aircraft-carriers, heavy and light cruisers, destroyers and submarines, is uninjured and they are all at sea, seeking contact with the enemy. The Japanese failed in their purpose of knocking out the United States before the war began." The Japanese also lost three submarines and forty-one aircraft during the raid.

JAPANESE RUSE IN VAIN

Since then the Japanese have been intermittently shelling Hawaii, Johnston Island, Baker Island, Guam, Wake and Midway; but all are holding out firmly except Guam. Situated right in the midst of the Japanese Mandated Islands and not equipped with full defence facilities, Guam has had to surrender. It is obvious that the hit and run attacks on these islands, in which the Japanese have risked valuable warships, are meant to decoy some of the offensive strength of the United States Pacific Fleet, which is searching for the main Japanese Fleet, into a hunt for the raiders. It is authoritatively stated in Washington that the American Fleet would not be distracted from its main task.

And till the arrival of that Fleet into the Western Pacific, the chief United States base in these waters, Manila, and the chief British bases, Singapore and Hongkong, are determined to beat back all Japanese attacks. Latest communiques report a lull in the fighting in the Philippines, where most Japanese para-troops have been wiped out. On Wednesday, 26 Japanese planes were destroyed in an attack on the Japanese air base at Vigan. American bombers are very active, keeping a ceaseless vigil. And Admiral Hart, Commander-in-Chief of the relatively small but keen and determined United States Asiatic Fleet based at Manila, appears to be very confident in his ability to beat off any further Japanese landings. Not only that. United States submarines are now reported to be in the waters around Japan and to have made some successful attacks on Japanese vessels. Several Japanese troopships have been sunk (and thousands of soldiers drowned) by the United States and Netherlands East Indies Navy. And a Netherlands aircraft scored a direct hit on a Japanese destroyer off Borneo.

HONGKONG SPURNS IDEA OF SURRENDER

The Governor of Hongkong has rejected the Japanese proposal to begin negotiations for the colony's surrender. The mainland of Kowloon has been evacuated according to plan by the British troops, who have now consolidated the Island's defences. The Japanese have launched a violent attack on Hongkong but the garrison is full of confidence. The Japanese are reported to have occupied the Portuguese island of Macao, about 45 miles south-west of Hongkong, but they will have to reckon with the Chinese, who are now attacking their rear and flank along the Canton-Kowloon railway. A British Military Mission is now busy at Chungking and joint Sino-British plans are being put into effect.

The Japanese have made a landing in the Sarawak territory in Borneo in which British troops had already destroyed oil installations. As a set-off to this we may point to the entry of British and Dutch troops into Portuguese Timor, on whose fine air-bases the Japanese High Command have been casting covetous eyes for some time. But very disquieting news comes from Malaya. True, the Japanese have been successfully halted in the Kelantan area but their drive through Kedah towards Penang is making progress. They have hitherto been

able to exploit their numerical superiority in aircraft and mechanised equipment but a message from Singapore, received in Madras on Thursday, states that fresh British and Imperial troops are being sent to the Kedah front to relieve the tired British, Indian and Australian soldiers who have there given of their best in ceaseless action for a week. The reinforcements are supported by heavy equipment and they are expected to halt the Japanese mechanised forces which have been pounding their way down the main Kedah road. The fighting is at present in the region of the Muda river, forming the boundary between the State of Kedah and the Province of Wellesley, which drains into the sea just north of Penang island. The threat to Penang must be warded off, otherwise the Japanese might gain a foothold—although difficult and almost precarious—right in the Indian Ocean.

"SINGAPORE SHALL NOT FALL."

If Malaya is overrun, Singapore will be menaced. The Governor, Sir Shenton Thomas, addressing an emergency meeting of the Legislative Council, said, "The fate of Penang must depend largely on what happens in Kedah. The initial surprise attack has made things difficult for us. They have not gone as we hoped. We had some shocks—we expect more, but Singapore must not fall—it shall not fall. The decision of the Thailand Government not to resist invasion despite all its affirmations during recent weeks left us alone in the defence of the northern frontier of Malaya. We scrupulously respected Thailand's declared neutrality. The free passage given to Japan by Thailand has made possible a large-scale attack on Kedah." And, in another declaration, Sir Shenton said, "We will stand by the ship. From the sands of Egypt to the snows of the Antarctic, the British Empire looks to us—no, not only the British Empire, but all people who love freedom, justice, truth and fair dealing. Let us then steel ourselves to endure, let us fight for every inch of ground in the great task that lies before us, knowing—as we do know for certain—that ultimate victory will be ours; and to the people of my own race I say this: "In any withdrawal or movement of the population, there will be no distinction of race. No European civilian, male or female, will be ordered by the Civil Government to withdraw. We will stand by the people of this country, with whom we live and work, in this ordeal."

INDIA ALERT

And India is fully awake to the danger that lurks in the Far Eastern developments. The Japanese claim to have bombed Rangoon and to have occupied the Andamans is now seen to be a barefaced lie but we in India are not neglecting our defences in view of the Japanese bombing of Tenasserim and penetration into Victoria Point very near the Thailand border. Another big convoy of Indian troops with full equipment has just arrived in Rangoon. General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief, has this week completed important discussions with Lieutenant General Sir Charles Broad, General Officer Commanding, Eastern Command, India, in connexion with the latest developments in the Far Eastern situation and the Japanese offensive in Malaya. It is also understood that General Wavell is maintaining the closest touch with the Far East Command. In this connexion it will be recalled that shortly before the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, he paid a special personal visit to Singapore where he was able to discuss all questions relating to the possibility of a Japanese attack and the means of securing the utmost co-ordination between the Far East and Indian Commands in the event of such an attack being made. The defence of India is absolutely safe in the hands of General Wavell.

DEFENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

U.S. OUTPOST IN THE PACIFIC

Japanese strategy, after a fortnight's fighting, stands revealed as an attempt to subjugate both Singapore and the Philippines before the American Pacific Fleet steams eastwards from its base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii and foils Japan. Unless these two outposts—the one British, and the other American—are taken, Japan can hope neither to penetrate with safety into Burma nor to risk an invasion of the Netherlands East Indies or Australia. Singapore, we know, is heavily fortified and determined to hold out at all costs against the Japanese. Let us have a look at the Philippines.

The Archipelago lies between Indo-China to the west and the area of the Japanese Mandated Islands to the east, and between Japanese Formosa on the north and the Netherlands East Indies on the south. Outlying islets of the Philippines (as the *Bulletin of International News*, published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, points out) are divided from Formosa only by the Bashee Channel, and on the south run close to North Borneo. The most northerly large island, Luzon, is 500 miles from China. The distance from Manila, the capital of the Philippines and the most important city in Luzon, to Hongkong is 640 miles; from Manila to Singapore the distance is 1,340 miles; the nearest American land Guam is 1,500 miles away—in the midst of the Japanese Mandated area—and is now reported to have been captured by the Japanese; and the distance from Manila, which is the headquarters of the small United States Asiatic Fleet, to the main Pacific base of the United States Navy at Pearl Harbour is 5,000 miles.

The country has an area of 115,000 square miles, nearly as great as that of the British Isles, and a population of over 16 million. There are some 7,000 islands and islets, the largest being Luzon on the north, with an area of 40,814 square miles; and Mindanao on the south, 36,906 square miles. Between them lie eight islands of considerable size, and to the west, the Calamian Islands and the long narrow island of Palawan stretch from Mindoro down to North Borneo. The range in latitude (1,000 miles), and still more the variety in altitude permits a wide range of tropical and sub-tropical climate and production. The northern part of the Archipelago lies within the typhoon area and the whole area is liable to seismic disturbance. The islands inland are mostly of volcanic origin, and are traversed by mountain ranges following on the whole a north and south direction. There are some active volcanoes, and the lower slopes and valleys have been enriched in the past by volcanic deposits, and are very fertile. It is estimated that 63 per cent of the area is fit for cultivation, but a great part of the country is still under forest and jungle, and only about 14 per cent of the total has been brought under the plough.

JAPANESE SETTLERS IN PHILIPPINES

When, however, one talks of the wealth of the Philippines, one thinks not of rice or other subsistance products but of gold, chromite, sugar, coconut products, Manila hemp (which comes from the abaca plant, a cousin of the banana, and makes the strongest rope in the world) and tobacco. And it is here (as the American journal, *Fortune*, emphasizes) that Philippine industry is " loaded with dynamite." The inhabitants of the Philippine Islands are of Malay race, with a great deal of Spanish and Chinese admixture in the northern and central islands, but in the interior of the larger islands there are some Negritos, possibly aboriginal. The Malay population consists of over twenty tribes which entered the country at different times. The overwhelming majority of the Filipinos, 90 per cent of the total population, are Catholic, having been converted at the time of the Spanish conquest. Of the foreign elements, excluding the American civil and military officers, traders and the floating tourist population of Manila, the most important are the Chinese (who hold the key-positions in most retail, and even in some wholesale trades and who have inter-married to some extent with the Malays); but potentially the most troublesome are the 30,000 Japanese. In Davao, the hemp centre of Mindanao, out of a total population of about 96,000, there are about 18,000 Japanese. A large part of the fishing industry of the country is in their hands and this has naturally caused uneasiness because of the insight gained into navigation in these waters. The Japanese are also big hemp-growers and have a considerable interest in iron, copper and manganese mining corporations. The land laws, theoretically, prevent outright Japanese ownership of great tracts of Davao land. But a swarm of Davao *Abogados*, or lawyers, have discovered practical loopholes in these laws; subsidiary companies have multiplied, Filipino and United States " homesteaders " have allowed the Japanese to work their holdings. Japanese have taken Filipino wives for purely business reasons, and Filipinos as dummy owners have placed their land corporation shares in Japanese safes. Where Americans were chary of putting money into the islands, the Japanese were building for the future and their fifth column activities have to be watched carefully.

THE ADMINISTRATION

The Philippine Islands (since 1934, the Commonwealth of the Philippines) came into the possession of the United States after the Spanish-American War of 1898. The pacification of the islands took some time to achieve, but by 1907, it proved possible to associate the Filipinos with the Government, and by 1913

some 72 per cent of administrative positions were held by them. Preparations went on for eventual complete self-government, and by the Independence Act of 1934, which came into force on 15th November 1935, a constitution providing for qualified independence was established. For ten years, that is, until 1946, the United States Government are to retain supreme control of foreign relations, finance and tariffs, and a United States High Commissioner is to remain at Manila. The United States can maintain naval and military bases during that period, and possibly after 1946. As 1946 draws near, however, even the most ardent Filipinos have shown some hesitation in accepting full independence, partly because their dependence on the free market of the United States will be gradually interfered with but even more because American protection is vital against Japanese aggression which has now materialized with such startling suddenness. On 10th August 1940, the Philippine Assembly granted President Manual Quezon practically unlimited powers. But, though he has declared his preference for a one-party system, the President disclaims any idea of a dictatorship. By amendments to the Constitution, the Presidential term has been shortened to four years and re-election permitted; a bi-cameral legislature was substituted for the single chamber. Washington endorsed these amendments. Both the President and the people of the Philippine Commonwealth are wholeheartedly supporting the United States against Japan.

DEFENCE

Until 1946, the defence of the Philippines rests with the United States, and there are few local resources and none of the industries necessary for modern defence, so that material must be imported. It is only in recent years that effective preparations for defence against serious attack have been made. The hands of the United States were tied by Article 19 of the Five-Power Treaty of 1922 on the limitation of naval strength, in which the United States, the British Empire and Japan agreed to maintain the *status quo* with regard to fortifications and naval bases in certain areas of the Pacific. This area included Hongkong and the Philippines. It is only since the denunciation of the Treaty by Japan in December 1934, taking effect two years later, that it has been possible to increase Philippine defensive works.

The naval defences available locally in the Philippines are the American Asiatic Fleet, which in peace-time amounted to one 10,000-ton cruiser, one 7,000-ton cruiser, 12 destroyers, and 12 submarines, with the usual fleet auxiliaries but it can be, and no doubt has, been reinforced from the main Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. At the end of 1939 the Asiastic Fleet was reinforced by one aircraft carrier, several large bombers, and more submarines. Many small 'mosquito' craft are being constructed locally.

In normal times the United States garrison consists of about 10,000 men, of whom 4,000 are American regulars and the remainder Philippine Scouts; it has been reinforced since the spring of 1941. Some 85 airports and landing stages for aircraft, recently improved exist and the small nucleus of war-planes in the islands has been constantly increased by arrivals from the United States. For example, the United States War Department announced in October 1940, that two Army Air Corps Pursuit squadrons were being transferred to the Philippines. It was reported at the same time that 70 aircraft ordered for Sweden had been requisitioned and were being sent to the Philippines. In May, 1941, it was expected that in the next six months the Air Force would be brought up to 1,000 'planes, and Brig-General Clagett was appointed to command the Air Force. Manila has air connexions with Singapore, Hongkong and Batavia and is rapidly becoming one of the greatest airports in the East.

Before the Commonwealth took over the administration from the United States, Major-General Douglas MacArthur was seconded as Military Adviser at the request of President Quezon, and a small Filipino force, capable of considerable expansion, was created. In peace-time the force is only of 7,000 men, but able-bodied young men must register, and some 40,000 are put into training each year. In March 1941 some 100,000 reservists were undergoing training. The annual military budget is for about 16 million pesos.

The greater part of the defences are concentrated in the island of Luzon, and the difficulties of transport and communication over the scattered archipelago would constitute a certain weakness if an attack were made elsewhere.

NAVAL BASE AT MANILA

Manila stands on a magnificent bay which would accommodate the whole United States Asiatic Fleet. It is defended by the fortress on Corrigidor Island, at the mouth of the bay, and by batteries on other outlying islands. In peace-time the garrison of Corregidor is 4,500 men, now increased. The island rises 650 feet from the sea in the narrow strait leading into the Bay, and is thickly honeycombed with defence works on the Gibraltar model. Just south of Manila, also in Manila Bay, is Cavite Bay, where there are marine barracks, fuel and ammunition depots, and dock facilities, but the repairing docks will not take the largest ships. At Olongapo, in Subic Bay, about 60 miles north of Manila, there is a good harbour and a floating dock, taking ships of 10,000 tons, but no fortifications unless newly constructed. The possibility of the use of Singapore by American ships must not be ruled out.

The thousands of small islands, among which many hiding places for submarines could be found, undoubtedly complicate defence and the problem is made more difficult by the Japanese occupation first of Hainan, and then of Indo-Chinese **bases.**

(*Continued on page* 11)

JAPANESE INFAMY RIVETS GREAT ALLIANCE

GERMANY'S SECOND JACKAL-ACCOMPLICE

Just eighteen months ago a jackal entered the arena of war. Italy was to squeeze the last drop of blood from the wounded and exhausted gladiator that Britain was supposed to be. The first result was the evacuation of British Somaliland. This is what Churchill said about it on August 20, 1940 :—

> Far larger operations, no doubt, impend in the Middle Eastern theatre and I shall certainly not attempt to prophesy their probable course. . . We intend to do our best to give a full account of ourselves."

Churchill did not boast of what he would do to Jackal No. 1. He does not boast now of what he will do to Jackal No. 2. He says simply : "We shall do our best." Mussolini's soldiers, sailors and airmen could tell the Japanese just what that " best " means.

Britain and the Empire do not face Hitler's new jackal-accomplice alone and unaided. The United States of America and the Netherlands East Indies are their active allies, while away to the north—where the Japanese war-lords have failed to force a decision in four-and-a-half years of callous carnage—the heroic Chinese nation and the armed forces under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek continue to fight the common foe.

The calculated and characteristic treachery with which the Japanese launched their attack must inevitably lead to some early success, but in the long pull Tokyo has to face the strongest combination of powers in the world. That Japan should attack both Britain and America together is evidence of her patent failure to drive a wedge between these two great democracies as well as her anxiety to gain strategical advantages before it is too late.

Japan has wilfully and wantonly added to the load of suffering which the human race must bear before Axis aggression is finally curbed and crushed. She has challenged forces, both spiritual and material, which in the ultimate event are unconquerable and, in so doing, she has welded those forces into a mighty alliance.

The present bellicose men of Tokyo were formed into a Cabinet in October for the purpose of capitalising the imminent fall of Moscow. The Soviet capital is holding out and hitting back and it is significant that Japan has not succumbed to Nazi pressure so far as to wage war against the U.S.S.R.

Russia's inspiring stand has had the effect of turning the main weight of the initial Japanese offensive towards Malaya, Burma and India. The merits of the defence in depth strategy, on which the Indian Command has always based its calculations, now stand out stark. Troops guarding India's outer defence bastions, from Singapore to Rangoon and northward to Bhamo, are keeping the enemy at a distance from her eastern frontier. India's war factories are far behind the firing line and if India does her best they will continue to be so.

GENERAL WAVELL OPTIMISTIC—(*Continued from page* 1)

Still he is very formidable and things are not going to be too easy. We shall have a hard year in 1942 against the Axis powers. But you have got the greatest combination of nations in the world opposed to him—the United States, the British Empire, Russia and China, all banded together now.

(4) *Libya.*—The latest account I have had shows that it is going extremely well. I have never had any doubts at all—I know that theatre, having had charge of operations there for two years—that that battle will go all right in the long run. It has been slow and more expensive than we had hoped ; but the greater part of the Germans and Italians there will sooner or later be accounted for. Already a large proportion of them have been accounted for. We have taken between eight thousand and ten thousand prisoners. There is no doubt whatever that the casualties of the enemy in killed and wounded, especially in killed, have been on an extremely heavy scale.

The fourth Indian Division which is the first Indian division that went overseas from this country and which was the spearhead of the attack on Sidi Barrani and Keren, is an extremely fine division. I have had a telegram to-day from General Auchinleck that General Ritchie has written to him that the Fourth Indian Division has done most magnificent work and no praise can be high enough for their achievement. The casualties of this division have not been many. One brigade had a certain number of casualties, but the other two have not suffered many. There is also the Fifth Indian Division who have done very fine work.

(5) *The future.*—We shall have a hard year in 1942 against the Axis powers, but the " greatest combination of nations in the world " opposed Axis powers and the United States, the British Empire, Russia and China, all banded together, were bound to win.

STATISTICS OF WAR

A NAZI LIE

Not for the first time Nazi radio stations are trying to create a rift in the Allied front by broadcasting blatant falsehoods about the severity of casualties suffered by Empire troops.

The fact is that seventy of every hundred soldiers engaged in the present Libyan offensive are from the United Kingdom. The remaining thirty are drawn from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand as well as from India.

It is the British practice to announce casualties in full as soon as accurate figures are available. In contrast, German casualty announcements are made irregularly and without any detail. Their announcement in the newspapers is rationed, no German paper being allowed to publish more than 25 obituary notices at a time.

In a speech on October 18, 1941, Lord Croft showed that, while British casualties on all fronts were already 100,000, Indian casualties totalled 7,000, Australian 13,000, New Zealand 6,000 and South African 600.

When the Greek campaign was at its height, the Nazi radio tried the same trick, alleging that all the fighting was being done and all the casualties were being suffered by Australians and New Zealanders. When the accurate figures were eventually published this lie was firmly nailed by the revelation that, while 82·6 per cent of the Australian solidiers and 86·3 per cent of the New Zealanders had been safely evacuated from Greece, the percentage of British troops evacuated was 68·2 No Indian troops were engaged in Greece.

DEFENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES—(*Continued from page* 9)

At first it was maintained by President Quezon that American responsibility included civil defence, but the Philippine Government have agreed to shoulder the responsibility. Since the spring of this year preparations have been made for civil defence, including increased production of foodstuffs, the acquisition of fuel stocks, the control of communications and air-raid precautions services. These services are co-ordinated by a Civilian Emergency Administration created by President Quezon in April 1941.

In recent months periodic conferences on defence have been held, attended by the High Commissioner, the Commander of the Asiatic Fleet, the Commandant of the 16th Naval District at Cavite, the Commander of the American Garrison, the President of the Philippines, his military adviser, Major-General Douglas MacArthur, and the Philippine Army chief of staff. In March, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, came from Singapore and Mr. van Kleffens, Netherlands Foreign Minister, from Netherlands Indies, and, though the visits were unofficial, it is possible that questions of common defence in the China Seas were discussed.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 29—DECEMBER 6, 1941

AN OLD LIE RE-DRESSED

"The Indians are greatly worried at their heavy losses in North Africa. They have found out that the Indian soldiers are stationed in the most dangerous fronts. Among the prisoners taken during the fighting in North Africa were numerous Indians. As soon as the front line was reached the Indians were flung into battle to stem the advance of the German and Italian tank-formations. The losses of Indian troops were extremely heavy."—(*German News in Hindustani, November* 30.)

"As on the other battlefields the British are causing troops of the different colonies to bear the brunt of the fighting in North Africa. In Greece. . . Indians fought for the British. Time and again. . . Indians have shed their blood for the British."—(*German News in English, December* 5.)

The compliment that the Germans have unwittingly paid the Indian troops will no doubt be accepted. If the Indians were in the forefront of the battle, they have carried it a long way. Their bravery in comradeship with an "English County Regiment" whose feats are deathless, has been praised by the American observer Quentin Reynolds.

But the facts against which Axis propaganda dashes in vain are these:

Of the troops participating in the great Libyan offensive, 70 per cent are from England, as revealed by the Minister of Information, Mr. Brendan Bracken, on November 29. The whole of the armoured striking force which bears the brunt of the fierce tank battle is of United Kingdom composition.

The sad but noble story of Empire casualties was told in the comprehensive official figures quoted by Lord Croft in October 18. British casualties on all fronts up to that date were 100,000 in round figures. Indian casualties were 7,000. Dominion casualties were 20,000. Casualties must be heavy in the grim struggle now raging in Libya against Germany's picked troops and tanks. But the burden is shared without question by all the forces of Britain and the Empire.

As for Greece, the answer to that German lie is that no Indian troops were engaged there.

FICTION AND FACT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"The number of pilgrims to Mecca has greatly diminished this year."—(*German News in German, 2nd December* 1941.)

"The number of pilgrims to Mecca has greatly diminished this year."—(*Italian News in Hindustani, 2nd December* 1941.)

From India alone, the Government of India are this year providing accommodation for 11,500 Haj pilgrims—a figure exceeding that of the last two years put together. The first three pilgrim ships have already arrived safely in Hedjaz. The number of pilgrims registering from Palestine is already more than twice as high as last year. The Germans have wisely confined their lies for local consumption, while the Italians have tactlessly blurted it out in Hindustani.

" British authorities have seized large quantities of wheat in Iran. This has caused unrest in the country. Wherever the British go famine follows their footsteps."—(*German News in English, 3rd December* 1941.)

Far from seizing wheat in Iran, wheat from Russia and the British Empire has gone into it. The estimated total is between 30 to 40 thousand tons. The Shah has recently given a munificent gift of £125,000 for distribution amongst the poor. Wheat production is being stepped up by a skilful policy of price priming.

" It will not be out of place to mention," said the Prime Minister of Iran on December 6, " that when the former Cabinet took over the Government about 2 months ago, warehouses in Teheran had insufficient wheat, but now I have the pleasure to mention that the wheat supply has been ensured."

BRAZILIAN NUTS

" There never existed the so-called German danger in Brazil." (*German News in English, December* 2, 1941.)

" We shall create a new Germany in Brazil." (*' Hitler Speaks,' pp.* 69—71.)

ROSTOV REVERBERATIONS

In Rostov Goebbels has dug his propaganda grave. He played up a Rostov victory, with premature and exaggerated glee. He has tried to cover the retreat of the Panzers with ill-tempered screams.

On November 22 the Germans claimed to have taken Rostov. Two days earlier they informed the Americans that " Further Soviet resistance is senseless and would not be conducted by any command with a feeling of responsibility."

In the last week of November the German home radio said " Rostov is in German hands and constitutes a barrier between the Caucasus and the rest of Soviet Union." In fact on November 19 the German home radio boasted about Rostov and added: " The setting up of a civil administration in occupied Russia proves the untruth of one of the most frequent propaganda lies of our enemies, that fighting with partisans occurs in these places."

The military retreat from Rostov has now sent Dr. Goebbels into a further retreat from reason. The official German communique of December 1 was read on the radio as follows: " According to orders, so that necessary retaliatory measures may now be ruthlessly carried out against a population which contrary to international law participated in fighting in the rear of German troops, the Army has withdrawn from Rostov."

The world was warned the same day:— " The Bolsheviks will now claim that they have captured Rostov. But there can be no question of this."

Reprisals are to be taken against the citizens according to " international law " by leaving the town. The citizens were attacking the ' rear ' of the German army which was already inside the town and had set up a " civil administration." The Russians are " senseless enough to make Rostov an outpost of the British front in the Near East." (*German News in English, December* 3, 1941.) The jigsaw puzzle of lies had many gaps this time.

GOEBBELS HOPES IN 1940—ENGLAND

" The British Navy is invisible in the North Sea, powerless in the Mediterranean, absent in the Far East and repulsed in the Atlantic." (*German Broadcast, December* 2, 1940.)

" By March or April 1941 Britain will have no longer any ships to bring in food supplies." (*German Home Radio, November* 30, 1940.)

" The hopes placed by Britain in assistance from the United States are comparable to the attempts of a drowning man to clutch at straw." (*Zeesen Broadcast to America, November* 30, 1940.)

" England's fate is being sealed with mathematical precision." (*German News from Czechoslovakia, November* 30, 1940.)

" 1940 is the greatest year in German history. Its end spells victory." (*Zeesen Broadcast, December* 6, 1940.)

(*Continued on page* 15)

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER GERMANY AND ENGLAND

12th Dec.—The Royal Air Force raids Cologne and other areas in Western Germany, the docks at Le Havre and Brest and lays mines in enemy waters.

Slight enemy activity over Eastern England causes slight damage and no casualties.

13th Dec.—The Royal Air Force bombs oil refinery works at St. Nazaire in France, a supply ship off Texel and the docks at Brest and Dunkirk.

16th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacks Ostend and Brest.

It is revealed that only 89 persons were killed (or are missing) and 155 injured in air raids on the United Kingdom during November.

17th Dec.—The Royal Air Force raids the German naval mase at Wilhelmshaven, Bremen and other towns in North-Western Germany, the docks at Ostend, Dunkirk and Brest and aerodromes in Occupied France.

18th Dec.—Brest and Le Havre are bombed by the Royal Air Force.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

12th Dec.—The British Imperial Forces in Libya reach Gazala, 40 miles west of Tobruk. It is revealed that the 361st German Africa Regiment has been destroyed during the Libyan operations.

A British submarine torpedoes and causes a violent explosion in an Italian cruiser in Central Mediterranean.

13th Dec.—British destroyers sink an Italian cruiser and severely damage another in Central Mediterranean.

The Royal Air Force raids enemy bases in Sicily as well as the mainland of Italy while the Empire Forces continue their advance in Libya.

14th Dec.—The British Imperial troops encircle and attack enemy troops at Gazala and capture Ghirba.

Empire air forces destroy 18 enemy aircraft over Libya and set fire to two enemy cruisers in Central Mediterranean.

15th Dec.—The Empire Forces capture 700 prisoners, 70,000 gallons of fuel and several guns and tanks in Libya beside destroying many more tanks. Heavy fighting with Gen. Rommel's main forces is reported between Tmimi and Gazala.

Italy admits the loss of two cruisers and British raids on *Cirene* and *Derna*. British submarines sink by gunfire a supply ship, a schooner and a caique and torpedo another supply ship and a salvage tug.

16th Dec.—British and Indian troops break through a strong enemy position near Alam Hamza, 15 miles south-west of Gazala.

17th Dec.—The Admiralty announces that the British destroyer *Frandale* has sunk the big, modern Italian U-Boat *Ammiraglio Carraciolo* in Central Mediterranean.

18th Dec.—Axis forces in Libya are in full retreat to Derna after five days of intensive fighting. British Imperial Forces pursue the enemy for 30 miles and reach the Tmimi-Mekili Road.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

12th Dec.—The entire Pacific Coast of the United States is blacked-out at night as a precaution.

President Roosevelt reveals that Mr. Churchill and Lord Beaverbrook have offered to turn over to the United States the entire shell-making output of three factories in Canada.

13th Dec.—The three most influential American Labour leaders, Messrs. William Green, Philip Murray and John Lewis, pledge Labour's full support for war effort.

15th Dec.—President Roosevelt, in a message to Congress, reviews the current year's negotiations between Japan and the United States of America and the former's treachery.

In a broadcast on the anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights, Mr. Roosevelt declares "We covenant with each other before all the world that, having taken up arms in the defence of liberty, we will not lay them down before liberty is once again secure in the world we live in."

Col. Knox, United States Secretary to the Navy, reports to the President on his return from an inspection of the Naval Base at Hawaii.

Mr. Wendell Willkie, after meeting Mr. Roosevelt, declares that the damage done at Hawaii has not seriously affected America's ability to defeat Japan.

16th Dec.—The United States House of Representatives grants President Roosevelt extraordinary wartime powers.

The United States Senate approves the Bill for the appropriation of 10,000 million dollars more for defence equipment that had been sent to it by the House of Representatives.

18th Dec.—The Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet and the Army and Air Commanders at Hawaii are replaced.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

12th Dec.—A special Soviet communiqué announces the definite defeat of the German army before Moscow. The Russians continue to advance on all fronts. The Russians recapture Rogachav, Stalinogorsk and other towns and surround Klin. It is reported that Von Bock, the German Commander on the Central (Moscow) front has been relieved of his command.

A Soviet official reveals that Germany has sent out peace " feelers " to Russia, who will never conclude a separate peace.

13th Dec.—The Russians continue to press back the Germans all along the front and re-occupy a number of towns.

14th Dec.—Three more towns are captured by the Russians. An Italian General, Ugo de Carolis, is killed in Russia.

15th Dec.—In addition to taking the railway line from Tikhvin to Volkhov and capturing Klin, the Russians advance further along the entire front. It is reported that the Soviet Government are returning to Moscow.

16th Dec.—The Russians recapture Kalinin, 100 miles north-west of Moscow, and launch on attack on the Lake Ladoga front.

17th Dec.—The Germans begin a retreat on a large scale from Mojaisk, 65 miles due west of Moscow.

18th Dec.—The Russians recapture the towns of Aleksin and Shchekino.

Large scale Russian manœuvres are reported in the Far East.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, ETC.

12th Dec.—Rumania declares war on the United States.

13th Dec.—Hungary declares war on America; and Bulgaria on both Britain and America.

14th Dec.—Turkey notifies that she will remain neutral in the Pacific conflict.

16th Dec.—The Iran Parliament passes a vote of confidence in the Government, who state that the signing of the treaty with Britain is imminent.

SHIPPING

12th Dec.—United States Coast Guards seize the French liner *Normandie* and other French ships in American ports.

18th Dec.—Another United States cruiser is launched.

THE FAR EAST

12th Dec.—More Japanese raids on American naval bases and attacks on Luzon are reported as well as an air-raid on an area in Tenasserim division of Burma and slight advances after bitter fighting in the Kedah area in Malaya and in the Hongkong region.

Australian bombers raid the island of Tobi and United States Naval patrol planes score hits on a Japanese battleship of the Kongo class off Luzon.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED—(*Continued from page* 13)

GOEBBELS GROPES IN 1941—GERMANY

" All purchase, sale or barter of wool is prohibited. Entire output is being used for Army purposes." (*German Home Broadcast, November* 1941.)

" Europe must realise essential principles of *ersatz*. It must live by its own production." (*German Broadcast to Belgium, November* 28, 1941.)

" The hostilities in Russia were not started only to suppress the danger which threatened civilization, they were to secure essential raw materials to European countries." (*German Broadcast to Belgium, October* 27, 1941.)

" Lorries may now only be manufactured if adapted to driving on wood gas." (*German Home Broadcast, November* 12, 1941.)

" . . . increase in coal production in Slovak mines has only been 3½ per cent in the last year." (*German Broadcast to the Netherlands, November* 28, 1941.)

" Africa can provide raw materials and food. . . that Europe needs." (*Nazi controlled Paris Radio, July* 1941.)

13th Dec.—There are more air raids on the Tenasserim area, on Penang and on Manila. Several Japanese troops landed in Luzon Island are wiped out. The island of Guam is taken by the Japanese but Wake and Midway hold out.

Submarines of the Netherlands Navy sink four Japanese troopships off Patani in southern Thailand and 4,000 enemy troops are drowned.

M. Litvinov, the Soviet Ambassador to the United States of America, characterises Japan as " the common enemy " and says complete understanding prevails among all anti-Axis powers.

14th Dec.—The Japanese cross the Burma border from Thailand into Point Victoria region and begin a general offensive against Hongkong which refuses to surrender. Fierce fighting is reported in Malaya. Japanese parachutists are wiped out in Luzon while four Japanese troopships are sunk by American bombers and three more are damaged, according to an American Army communiqué which says that the situation in the Philippines is " well in hand " at the end of the first week of military operations.

Chinese forces strike at the Japanese flank and rear in the Hongkong region.

15th Dec.—The Japanese gain ground at heavy cost in Kedah, shell Hongkong (where the British withdraw from Kowloon) and make more air-raids on Luzon.

16th Dec.—The Japanese land in Sarawak. Four Japanese planes are brought down over the Philippines and one Japanese transport is bombed by Untited States planes. Very heavy fighting continues in Malaya.

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Togo, states in the Diet his belief that Russia will abide by the Neutrality Pact with Japan.

17th Dec.—The Japanese caims to have bombed Rangoon and captured the Andaman Islands are revealed to be bare-faced lies. Twenty-six Japanese planes are destroyed by United States bombers in an attack on the Japan air base at Vigan.

18th Dec.—A big convoy of Indian troops with full equipment arrives safely in Rangoon.

Forestalling Japanese action, British and Dutch troops occupy the Portuguese island of Timor.

The Japanese suffer a big reverse at Vigan where they are thrown back many miles by Filipinos.

VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

12th Dec.—A Vichy despatch says that Admiral Leachy, the United States Ambassador, has taken leave of Marshal Petain and Admiral Darlan.

13th Dec.—The Vichy Government notify their neutrality **in the Pacific war.**

The Germans announce that they will shoot 100 " Jews, anarchists and communists, " imprison a large number and impose a fine of 1,000 million francs on Jews in the occupied territory following attempts against German troops in France.

14th Dec.—Paris press reports foreshadow " protection of French merchantships in the Mediterranean by the French Navy."

The Vichy Government inform the German authorities of " the deep uneasiness among all Frenchmen " caused by the German " reprisals."

16th Dec.—The British Admiralty exposes a German U-boat attack on the French ship St. Denis off the Balearics and refutes Vichy's charge that a British submarine was responsible.

OTHER OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

12th Dec.—General Sikorski, the Polish Premier, reviews Polish troops at the Polish Army Headquarters in Russia. Poland declares war on Japan and has requested the United States Government's help in recruiting Polish citizens in America.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

12th Dec.—Cuba, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic declare war on Japan while Mexico breaks off diplomatic relations with her.

14th Dec.—Mr. de Valera says that Eire will be a " friendly neutral " in the new extension of the war to America.

Egypt severs diplomatic relations with Rumania and Hungary.

17th Dec.—The Admiralty reveals that the sinking of the Spanish steamer *Badalonia* was brought about by a German U-Boat.

The Spanish Foreign Minister, after a conference with General Franco, receives the British Ambassador, Sir Samuel Hoare.

The Argentine Government declare a State of Siege " in order to carry out their international obligations."

The next issue of the Madras War Review will appear on Friday, the 9th January 1942.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Information Officer and Special Press Adviser, Madras.]

MADRAS: PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.